

ROTOVUE

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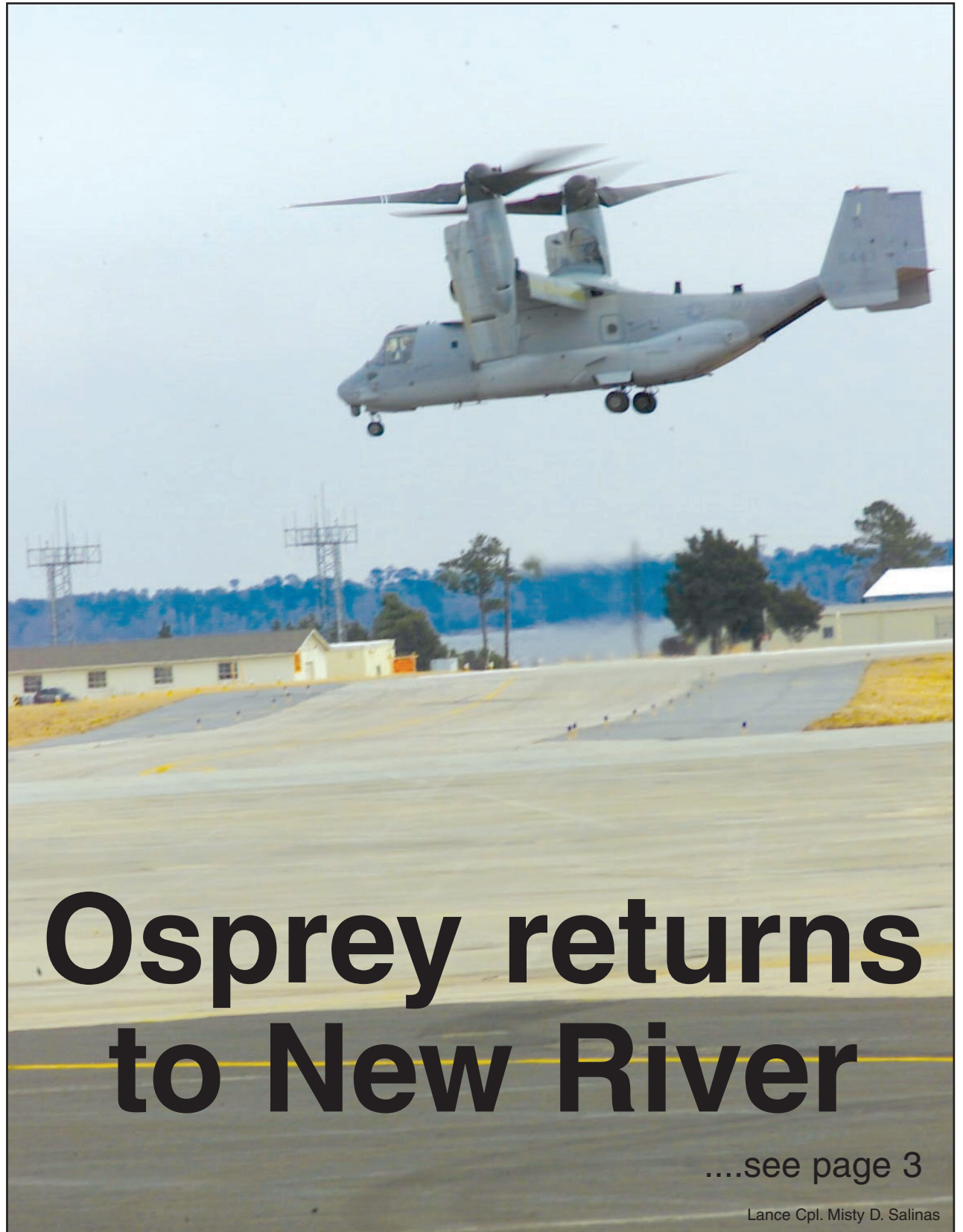
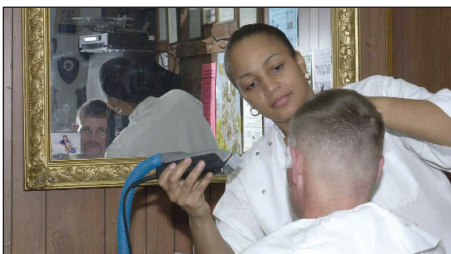
**MAG 29: On the
front lines Pgs. 10,11**



**These young men
made a huge
impact.....Pg. 13**



**Deployments:
Things you need to
know.....Pg. 20**



Osprey returns to New River

....see page 3

Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

FLIGHTLINES

Physical Therapy

The Physical Therapy Clinic at the Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, is short on crutches and needs patients to return any they might have at home. Also, if anyone has any crutches lying around that are no longer needed, they can be donated to the Physical Therapy Clinic.

This will enable the clinic to have a stock of all sizes on hand and help save money. Crutches being donated should be in pairs, in good working order, and reasonably clean. Do not worry about the crutch tips or pads, as these can be replaced easily. Any assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Call the clinic directly at 450-4750 if you have any questions.

New River TMO Closed

The Personal Property Office at MCAS New River will be temporary closed. All personal property business can be conducted at Camp Lejeune's Traffic Management Office, Bldg. 1011. They can be reached at 451-2377, ext. 201 for any assistance. The passenger office will remain open for normal business.

This temporary closure is attributed to MARADMIN 007/03 Marine Corps Stop Move/Stop Loss policy and increased business within the Freight section.

Point of Contact is Master Gunnery Sgt. Rothrock, 451-2501.

OWC 2003 Scholarships

The MCAS New River Officers' Wives' Club is offer-

ing scholarship money to qualified applicants. Scholarships are available to family members of officers and enlisted E-5 and below. Application deadline is March 13.

You may pick up your application at your squadron, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, American Red Cross and the Personal Services Center. You may also contact Kim Delatte at 324-9707 for additional information.

Medical Information Update

Over the next months, the staff at the hospital and local clinics will be screening records as patients come in to ensure that contact information is correct. This may cause brief delays, and require people to have contact information available. The goal is to ensure that names, addresses, phone numbers and family relationship information is correct.

Annual Valentine's Day Balloon Sale

Balloon sales are taking place at the New River SNCO Wives Thrift Shop as well as New River Staff NCO Club.

Satellite sales representative will be present at the Staff NCO Club for balloon sales during chow. A pre-payment option is available. Call 938-6006 for information.

Mardi Gras Party 2003

Feb. 28, 6 p.m. to midnight. Sponsored by New River SNCO Wives Club and hosted by Marine Corps Community Services at the

New River Staff NCO Club.
\$10 per person
\$15 per couple (Solution for spouses of personnel deployed:
Two adults = One couple)
6 - 7 p.m.
Cocktail Hour
7 p.m. till its gone
Gumbo and more

There will be a King Cake baking competition with awards for the most creative, the best tasting and for effort. There will also be a Best Dressed Award, door prizes and dancing. All proceeds go to scholarship fund. For any questions call 938-6006.

Childcare will be available from New River Child Development Center (449-6712/6713).

There is a requirement of 10 families minimum to secure this privilege.

Bowl For Your Heart

The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department, the Onslow County Health Department and the Bowlarena are sponsoring "Bowl For Your Heart" program Sunday, at the Bowlarena.

The event is open to the public and begins at 1 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person (includes shoes and one game). All proceeds will be donated to The American Heart Association. Participants will receive free goody bags and door prizes. Free cholesterol and blood pressure check will be available. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Everyone bowls at his or her own risk. If you have questions about this program please call the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department at 347-5332.

Regs for Savings Bonds

The Department of Treasury recently announced that the minimum holding period for Series EE and I bonds has been increased from six to 12 months as of Feb. 1.

This change means people who purchase EE or I bonds on or after Feb. 1 must wait one year before they may redeem those bonds. People who purchase bonds will receive a notification of this new policy with their bonds until the preprinted bond stock that incorrectly states the previous holding period is used up. More information is available at www.savingsbonds.gov

For more about the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, please visit <http://www.dfas.mil>.

Beware Of Check Scam

There have been several instances in the recent weeks of Marines being approached in the exchanges by people who claim to have lost their identification cards and wish to cash a check. They talk the Marine into doing a "good deed" by cashing a check and giving the money to them in return for a check the Marine can take to the bank and deposit. And, you guessed it, the check the Marine receives is no good. It should go without saying, but if someone approaches you with a situation like this, don't cash the check. Immediately contact the security people at the exchange and notify the Provost Marshal's Office. If you were one of the people who fell for this, put your shame aside and contact PMO with the details. It can help put these creeps behind bars.



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

Raging Bulls Raging Safely



Sgt. Juan Vara

Col. Douglas F. Ashton, Marine Aircraft Group 26 commanding officer, makes changes to the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261 safety board. Last December, the "Raging Bulls" reached 45,000 Class A mishap free flight hours.

Osprey returns to New River



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

The MV-22 Osprey made a triumphant and morale boosting return to New River Thursday, if only for a few minutes. Osprey 21, having just completed a successful cargo aerial delivery test period at Ft. Bragg, stopped over at VMMT-204 on her way back to Patuxent River, Md. The quick stop was a home coming for Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Oliverio and Staff Sgt. Mike Schneider, the crew chiefs.

Awards and promotions

January & February

H&HS

Good Conduct Medal

Cpl. J. Freeland
Cpl. E. Gaskill III
Cpl. R. Jett
Cpl. R. Lewis
Cpl. S. Tillman
Lance Cpl. C. Fredrick

Promotions

Sgt. J. Callon
Sgt. J. Isenhower
Sgt. R. Kelm
Sgt. D. Ramirez
Sgt. L. Reiff, Jr.
Cpl. M. Malone III
Lance Cpl. K. Brock
Lance Cpl. S. Lada
Lance Cpl. R. Narvaez, Jr.

MALS-29

Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal
Capt. M. D. Carroll

Master Sgt. A. J. Jackson

Good Conduct Medal

Staff Sgt. P. Bracisiewicz
Cpl. W. R. Salan
Cpl. C. L. Taylor
Lance Cpl. G. T. Martin
Lance Cpl. H. W. Parker, Jr.
Lance Cpl. D. A. Waldburg
Lance Cpl. M. J. Walls

Certificate of Commendation

Staff Sgt. D. M. Cross

Letter of Appreciation

Cpl. A. Dacosta
Cpl. G. Gutierrez
Cpl. S. M. Hawk
Cpl. S. A. Kudlacz
Cpl. D. L. Woods
Lance Cpl. J. P. Bates
Lance Cpl. A. J. Cowan
Lance Cpl. M. V. Donovan
Lance Cpl. J. Guerro
Lance Cpl. J. A. Hughes
Lance Cpl. G. T. Martin
Lance Cpl. W. L. Ogdon
Lance Cpl. J. E. Prince
Lance Cpl. C. D. Tiihonen

Lance Cpl. J. M. Tiihonen
Lance Cpl. R. A. Varmer
Lance Cpl. R. Velasquez
Pfc. M. J. Pietropaolo
Pfc. B. A. Koonz
Pfc. P. W. Schmotter
Pfc. G. M. Garcia
Pfc. S. B. Patrick
Pfc. T. W. Taylor

Promotions

Cpl. A. Bryant
Cpl. D. Lambert
Cpl. K. Phouthavongsa
Lance Cpl. D. Allred
Lance Cpl. J. Brady
Lance Cpl. R. Sams
Lance Cpl. A. Szeles
Pfc. L. Delgado
Pfc. H. Freytes
Pfc. E. Nieto
Pfc. S. Patrick

NAMTRAMAR Unit

Promotions

Staff Sgt. J. Andino
Lance Cpl. S. M. Allen
Lance Cpl. Adamczyk
Lance Cpl. C. E. Bennett
Lance Cpl. N. S. Catterton
Lance Cpl. K. A. Dohner

Lance Cpl. D. A. Flicek
Lance Cpl. S. Ramroop
Lance Cpl. T. J. Ruffolo
Lance Cpl. T. E. Saba
Lance Cpl. I. E. Sahagun
Pfc. A. A. Alston
Pfc. N. E. Boros
Pfc. L. J. Bryant
Pfc. E. J. Castillo
Pfc. E. T. Christensen
Pfc. G. M. Cole
Pfc. S. D. Davidson
Pfc. C. D. Dowd
Pfc. D. F. Ferron
Pfc. J. H. Gaylor
Pfc. M. A. Gentry
Pfc. J. R. Hamel
Pfc. B. W. Hampton
Pfc. C. M. Long
Pfc. R. C. Longmire
Pfc. T. C. Mitchell
Pfc. J. M. Reiser
Pfc. T. I. Richardson
Pfc. A. C. Rondeau
Pfc. N. C. Sands
Pfc. L. P. Scott
Pfc. J. N. Smith
Pfc. C. L. Wiggins

MALS-26

Meritorious Service Medal
Gunnery Sgt. G. D. Shull

Promotions

Gunnery Sgt. S. G. Kieweg
Staff Sgt. A. A. Delgado
Staff Sgt. P. B. Price
Sgt. A. Bullockcheathem
Sgt. V. C. Diaz
Sgt. W. F. Labombard
Cpl. E. M. Gonzalez
Cpl. N. A. Guerra
Cpl. A. T. Jackson
Cpl. S. W. Sterchi
Cpl. D. C. Zareczny
Lance Cpl. D. D. Chiquet
Lance Cpl. M. A. Canela
Lance Cpl. P. A. Elsey
Lance Cpl. K. P. Kiesgen
Lance Cpl. A. Melson Jr.

VMMT-204

Meritorious Service Medal
Gunnery Sgt. J. A. Magyar

MAG 26

Certificate of Commendation
Cpl. E. A. Olano
Lance Cpl. J. E. McKay

AWARD

from page 3

HMM-266

Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal
CWO2 J. S. Clemmons
Gunnery Sgt. N. E. Bingham
Staff Sgt. M. L. Giles

Navy and Marine Corps
Achievement Medal
Capt. L. P. Simon

Promotions

Cpl. M. B. Ambros
Cpl. J. W. Lovejoy
Cpl. L. B. Wright
Lance Cpl. W. R. Fell
Lance Cpl. B. D. Marshall
Lance Cpl. M. M. Metzger
Capt. W. A. McFarland

HMH-461

Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal
Capt. J. K. Decapite

HMM-261

Navy and Marine Corps

Commendation Medal

Petty Officer First Class C.
Needham

H&HS

Good Conduct Medal

Sgt. J. Eisenhower
Lance Cpl. D. Barnes

Certificate of Commendation

Lance Cpl. I. McDonald

Promotions

Sgt. M. Cain
Sgt. A. Coleman
Sgt. M. Ritchie

Cpl. C. Crytzer
Cpl. D. Cunningham
Cpl. C. Dennis
Cpl. K. Ham
Cpl. J. Hiett
Cpl. I. McDonald
Cpl. A. Pagan
Cpl. M. Ramos, Jr.
Cpl. D. Stevens
Cpl. I. Taylor
Cpl. J. Tillery
Lance Cpl. B. Johnson
Lance Cpl. M. Sebesta
Lance Cpl. D. Trevino

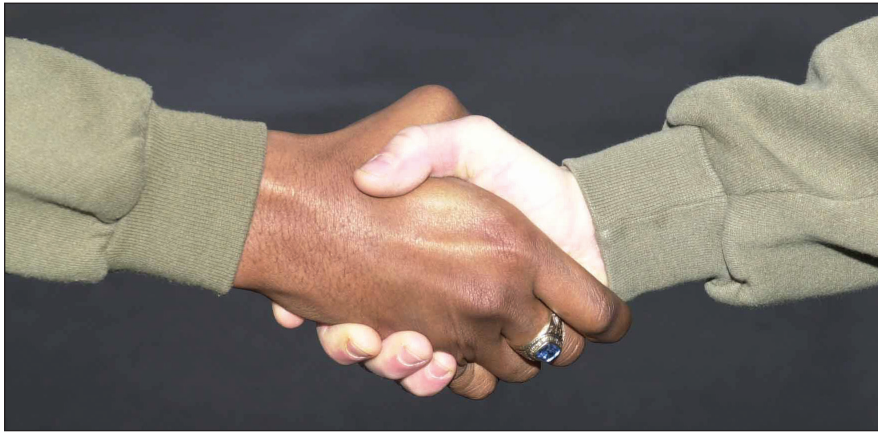
HMM-162

Navy and Marine Corps
Achievement Medal
1st Lt. E. L. Griggs

Promotions

Capt. D. J. Bennett
Gunnery Sgt. P. C. Brown
Sgt. R. G. Degeorge
Sgt. D. Holloway, Jr.
Sgt. C. S. Johnson
Sgt. L. M. Matherne
Cpl. J. W. Geuss
Cpl. D. L. Helton

Continued, page 7



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Making a difference starts with you...

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

By Marine Corps standards being a good Marine means doing the right thing for the right reasons all the time, but what happens to a Marine who doesn't have the right guidance?

The top enlisted Marine of Marine Aircraft Group 26, Sgt. Maj. Collin A. Cotterell, began a group-wide mentorship program, Jan. 30, to help young warriors find the proper guidance they need to become better leaders.

The program is designed to guide Marines and Sailors making the right choices both in their professional and personal lives. It emphasizes the importance of personal accomplishment from resident and nonresident professional military education, promotions and awards. Assistance in off duty education and financial planning is also available.

"I want our young warriors to seek out and find the right leadership that's going to take care of his or her problems," said Cotterell. "Every Marine and Sailor is going to have a shortfall in their life, and we need to take the time to listen to their problems."

Cotterell believes this program will help individuals grow and perform better. His goal is to target as many noncommissioned officers as possible and show them the vital role they play in everyday mission accomplishment. After all, he says they are the backbone of the Marine Corps.

"I think it's great that the sergeant major wants to take people, who have difficulties, and help them

before they have further difficulties," said Lt. Cmdr. Gary P. Stewart, MAG 26 chaplain.

Stewart was a guest speaker at the first mentorship meeting, and he spoke on the topic of love, which is by definition an unconditional commitment to meet the needs of an imperfect person. It is acting for the good of another.

According to Stewart, others should be considered when goals are set, so they do not cause others unnecessary harm. If individuals are self-centered in their goals, two things may occur. First, others are ignored and often injured on the path to achieving one's goal. Second, the person will be less tolerant with others who threaten their goals. This produces anger, therefore, creating more difficulties.

"I wasn't surprised to see Marines, who attended the meeting, had been known to be difficult," said Stewart.

"Those are the Marines we should be helping," he said.

Helping someone can make all the difference and making a difference is what Cotterell hopes to accomplish with these individuals. He strongly encourages anyone to attend the meetings, including other squadrons and units, because no one looking for help should be turned away.

"Hopefully, because of these meetings someone will come to me and say I made a difference," said Cotterell.

The meetings are held the last Thursday of every month. For more information about the program contact Sgt. Maj. Collin A. Cotterell at 449-6581.

Warrior receives excellence award

Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas
correspondent

In a formation outside the Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 hangar, Maj. Gen. John G. Castellaw, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, presented Gunnery Sgt. Christopher M. Collins, HML/A-167 maintenance control noncommissioned officer-in-charge, with the 2002 Professional Excellence Aviation Safety Award, Jan. 29.

Collins earned the award while working as the quality assurance chief at HML/A-167 and is cited as having identified specific structural integrity issues in the UH-1N Huey tail boom, developed inspection criteria to detect impending failures and made detailed recommendations on how to implement corrective actions fleet wide.

"When the cracks were first identified and we found the problem, we started checking all of our aircraft," said Collins. "As we did it more and more, we were telling the [deployed units] and HML/A-269. It just kind of snowballed from there and everybody started checking their tail booms, and when they did it was like 'wow, we really have a problem here.'"

Described as the epitome of a Marine mechanic and a senior staff noncommissioned officer by Gunnery Sgt. John Keiter, HML/A-167 quality assurance chief, Collins' insight and attention to detail doubtless prevented the loss of life and equipment fleet wide.



Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

Major Gen. John G. Castellaw, 2nd MAW CG, presents Gunnery Sgt. Christopher M. Collins, HML/A-167, the Excellence in Aviation Safety Award, Jan. 29.

AWARD

from page 5

Cpl. M. E. Hermosillo
Cpl. R. W. Lener
Cpl. M. B. Lewis
Lance Cpl. J. T. Pizarro

MALS-26

Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal
Master Sgt. R. R. Northrop

Navy and Marine Corps
Achievement Medal
Gunnery Sgt. R. E. Parham
Sgt. M. D. Sparks
Cpl. L. J. Lowery
Cpl. M. B. Sheahan

Certificate of Commendation
Staff Sgt. C. R. Castillo
Staff Sgt. A. W. Junkins
Sgt. R. A. Gareau
Cpl. M. B. Fisher

Cpl. A. T. Giberson
Cpl. J. T. Osborne
Lance Cpl. P. J. Bauer
Lance Cpl. C. Dematteo
Lance Cpl. R. T. Frawley
Lance Cpl. L. H. Jones
Lance Cpl. J. R. Olten
Lance Cpl. R. K. Smith

Meritorious Mast
Lance Cpl. D. A. Lewis

Letter of Appreciation
2nd Lt. G. W. Hager
Chief Warrant Officer 2 L. K. Rogers
Gunnery Sgt. K. P. Barto
Gunnery Sgt. M. Y. Brown
Staff Sgt. P. L. Weaver
Sgt. C. E. Ashby
Cpl. R. E. Adkins
Cpl. C. M. Elkins
Cpl. G. J. Hale
Cpl. M. C. Lowry
Cpl. D. D. Rankins
Cpl. M. W. Sandel
Lance Cpl. M. G. Athenas
Lance Cpl. B. Fitanzo
Lance Cpl. T. P. Mulvay

Lance Cpl. M. J. Secreti
Pfc. M. L. Copp
Pfc. R. A. Santamaria

Promotions
Staff Sgt. P. K. Evertz
Staff Sgt. B. C. Walmer
Sgt. G. Angarita
Sgt. B. M. Bundy
Sgt. R. L. Carter II
Sgt. A. H. Frazer, Jr.
Sgt. M. W. Gordon
Sgt. S. R. Nyberg
Sgt. R. M. Shibahara
Sgt. L. D. Sizemore
Sgt. C. M. Terrell
Cpl. J. D. Ballard
Cpl. J. B. Bass
Cpl. K. M. Bekes
Cpl. E. L. Gonce
Cpl. C. Haro
Cpl. T. E. Ippolito
Cpl. L. J. Juarez
Cpl. D. W. Lambert
Cpl. T. A. Lane
Cpl. D. S. McConnell
Cpl. R. S. Moran
Cpl. M. D. Nolen
Cpl. O. A. Pizarro

Cpl. C. M. Scarbrough
Cpl. S. L. Smith
Cpl. T. A. Stankunas
Cpl. J. R. Starke
Cpl. J. Stevens, Jr.
Cpl. C. A. Torofranco
Cpl. C. J. Worthington
Lance Cpl. H. E. Adrian
Lance Cpl. J. M. Baker
Lance Cpl. E. Hinojosa
Lance Cpl. T. J. Jackson
Lance Cpl. K. S. Kopp
Pfc. R. K. Prewitt

NAMTRAMAR Unit

Promotions
Gunnery Sgt. L. S. Mathis
Gunnery Sgt. M. E. Whitehurst
Lance Cpl. D. T. Brinegar
Lance Cpl. M. S. Brzezinski
Lance Cpl. T. M. Cole
Lance Cpl. B. F. Duran
Lance Cpl. M. A. Eguia
Lance Cpl. O. F. Foster
Lance Cpl. M. M. Hoyle
Lance Cpl. D. G. Hughes
Lance Cpl. J. L. Jakob

Lance Cpl. C. C. Kendrick
Lance Cpl. W. M. Miller
Lance Cpl. R. B. Wells
Pfc. J. C. Alain
Pfc. J. L. Bivins
Pfc. J. R. Boshers
Pfc. R. C. Casabianca
Pfc. S. Collins
Pfc. M. R. Czaplicki
Pfc. A. J. Germak
Pfc. M. M. Homer
Pfc. J. M. Manninen
Pfc. E. J. Norwick

HMM-266

Navy and Marine Corps
Achievement Medal
Capt. J. B. Lindsey

Good Conduct Medal
Sgt. J. C. Fend
Cpl. J. P. McLean
Cpl. J. OrtegaMireles
Cpl. D. A. TolosaRivera

Continued, page 15

Don't wait, attack flab today

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

There is no easy way to lose weight and trying to keep the weight off is even harder, but there may be a way to motivate oneself to achieving goals.

According to Verna Richardson, the supervising aerobic instructor with the fitness division, the New River Marine Corps Community Services' fitness division sponsors many exercise classes and challenging activities, which can improve the physical and mental well being of an individual.

"While exercising is a good way to lose weight, individuals should also eat right," said John E. Swett Jr., a health educator with the Station Medical Clinic. "Nutrition and exercise go hand-in-hand."

When individuals decide it's time to lose weight, they can go to the fitness center and speak to a personal trainer about which exercise program would be best for them. They are then referred to Swett,

who does an assessment based on eating habits and weight, and then recommends a weight management program.

This four-part program teaches people about the food guide pyramid, how to find the fats in food, exercise and weight management, and behavior modifications. Though these educational tools can help mattain one's ideal weight, sincere commitments on the individual's part will aid in maintaining the weight, added Swett.

Success is what Stacy A. Page, the head teller at the Marine Federal Credit Union Air Station Branch, felt when she won the holiday weight challenge held by the fitness division, said Page.

The challenge began Nov. 13, and participants had until Jan. 6 to either lose weight or maintain the weight at which they were weighed in. The person who lost the most weight or maintained their weight would win a cash prize.

"We did this for the patrons, so they would be

motivated to lose the weight," said Richardson. "The added incentive was the cash prize."

The cash prize was a nice encouragement for Page to work harder toward her goal. Her desire to lose weight strengthened as she found herself dropping more and more weight, she said.

"It really wasn't anything difficult to lose the weight," said Page.

"I went to the gym and worked out, did some cardio and weights," she said.

Page, a Mansfield, Ohio native, lost 15 pounds because of this challenge and said her husband Cpl. Chad Page, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 Marine, was very excited for her.

This activity worked for Page and many others. All that is required to reach one's goal is knowledge, discipline and determination, said Swett.

For more information on fitness or nutrition contact Verna Richardson at 449-6003 or John E. Swett Jr. at 449-6002 ext. 278.





Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

Casting shadows

Students from Blue Creek Elementary School joined Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 for "Shadow Day," Feb. 3. Approximately 40 children were aboard Station and visited MALS-26 Ground Supply Equipment, Power Plants, Ordnance, Avionics and Supply. Blue Creek Elementary School and MALS-26 are partners in the Marine Corps 'Adopt-a-School' program. Marines from the squadron volunteer regularly at the school.

99 years young

The Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society celebrated it's 99th birthday with director Sandi Isherwood (left), and Carey Schoff, chairman of volunteers, cutting the cake, Jan. 28.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Smallpox: Nuisance or threat?

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng correspondent

USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) - The Marines and Sailors of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade were the first to receive their small pox shots in such a large number and in a confined area.

Smallpox is a viral infection that begins with flu-like symptoms followed by a rash, which develops first around the face, armpits and chest area, and proceeds to move down the body.

The rash begins as red spots which progress into deep blisters embedded into the skin. Around day 14, the sores develop into scabs similar to chickenpox.

Patients are most contagious during the first week, when sores open up in the mouth, and the virus gets into the saliva.

"This is the first time in the Marine Corps a vaccination has been given to this many people at once, especially in such a confined area" said Lt. Cmdr. Joseph G. O'Brien, Marine Aircraft Group 29 medical officer. Even though the last known outbreak of the virus occurred in Somalia in 1977 and the World Health Organization declared the virus eradicated in 1980, there is a worry that terrorist

organizations or unfriendly governments may have stockpiles of the virus and may have plans to use it against U.S. Forces.

If that happens the consequences could be deadly. Approximately 30 percent of the unvaccinated people exposed to the virus will die; the rest will be seriously scarred for life. With the vaccination, the fatality rate drops to only three percent.

Smallpox belongs to the pox family of viruses and has been around for hundreds of years. The United States stopped administering the vaccine to children in 1972, but servicemembers continued to receive it until much later.

In order to safeguard against a smallpox threat, all personnel aboard the 7 ships here were vaccinated with the vaccinia virus, a similar strain that stimulates immunity to variola, otherwise known as smallpox.

The vaccine was administered by jabbing the skin three times with a bifurcated needle dipped in vaccine solution.

It was done this way because it has proven to be the safest and most effective means of inoculation for this vaccine. For most Marines, three jabs are sufficient enough to introduce the virus into their sys-

tem. For those who either received the vaccination before or couldn't remember and were born before 1972, they received 15 jabs. An extra dosage of the virus was necessary to overwhelm any residual immunity and provide sufficient infection stimulus to create solid immunity for up to five years. To be sure those Marines were properly vaccinated they had to receive a larger dose.

For such a large operation the medical staff aboard the Saipan received training on how to administer the vaccine, on the history of the virus, on how to care for the personnel as well as on how to recognize serious symptoms.

Preparation for administering the vaccine took about four days and it took two 14-hour days for administering it to just the Aviation Combat Element. Medical personnel will also provide assistance 20 hours a day for the next three weeks.

"This administration was important for protective measures, and I'm confident that it was handled in a safe manner," said O'Brien. "Especially after the extensive training everyone received."

The Marines and Sailors of the 2nd MEB will be contagious for 17



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Petty Officer 2nd class Derek R. Finland, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Aviation Combat Element hospital corpsman, pricks Pfc. Nicholas E. Black, with ACE supply, three times with the smallpox vaccine, Jan. 24.

to 21 days. After the first five days redness and itching will occur and after about a week they will have "flu-like" symptoms, soreness in the arm, and swelling and pain to the lymph nodes.

To be sure the vaccine is effec-

tive the Marines and Sailors will be checked after six to eight days for a visible sore where they received the vaccination.

If the vaccine didn't do its job, that warfighter will have to be vaccinated again, receiving 15 jabs.

Former instructor continues to mentor students

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng correspondent

USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) - When many Marines go through their military occupational specialty school they have one instructor who says "I'll see you in the fleet," but most instructors don't expect to go back to the fleet and see their former students manning their shop.

One such expectation belonged to Staff Sgt. James R. Huber, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the airframes shop of one of the helicopter squadrons of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade's Aviation Combat Element.

Huber taught airframes, hydraulics and blade repair of the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter at the Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit, New River, from January 1999 to November 2002.

The schoolhouse is only a hop, skip and a jump from his squadron, and when he returned, out of the 22 Marines he has working for him, 21 are his former students.

After working with them for only a few months he became reacquainted with each of them quickly. Even the Marines he hasn't worked with in a few years haven't changed that much.

"The squared away Marines are still squared away, and the ones who were always trying to get out of trouble are still trying to get out of trouble," he said. "I guess you're wired in boot camp to be a Marine. If you're a hard charger then, you'll stay that way."

There is one lance corporal who

stands out in his mind when it comes to improving as a Marine.

"He's come a long way," Huber said. "The first to volunteer for anything and does what I tell him to do right away. In school he had a tendency to be late and always seemed lost and confused, but now he should pick up corporal soon and he really deserves it."

Having taught his Marines gives him an advantage.

"They already know that I rule with an iron fist," he said jokingly. "But really, they already know what I expect from them. I treated them as if they were already in the fleet."

Huber said he knew one day they might be working for him. "Who would have know it'd be so soon," he added.

While an instructor Huber not only taught the curriculum, but he gave Corps Value classes. Focusing on topics such as politics and financial management, he gave his Marines lessons in life. He said he felt many of them were new to life, never having bills or a car of their own before, therefore it was important to prepare them for the real world as well as how to do their job.

"The most important thing Staff Sergeant Huber taught me, during one of the Corps Value classes, is to treat everyone the way you would want to be treated," said Cpl. Dagoberto Tellezbedolla, an airframes/hydraulic mechanic and a former student of Huber. "I knew I was going to be working for him when I got to the fleet, and I looked forward to it because he really knows his job."



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Staff Sgt. James Huber, Staff NCOIC of the Airframes shop of the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron with Marine Air Craft Group 29 attached to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, works on the steps of a CH-46E Sea Knight with his one of his former students, Cpl. Dagoberto Tellezbedolla, an airframes/hydraulic mechanic.

Huber has a special bond with his Marines not only because he had a hand in molding their character, but because of certain instances.

Especially after he had to escort a Marine to the 'brig' with one of his former students. After the prisoner tried to escape by jumping out of the van, the two chased him and then wrestled him back into the van.

He said his Marines are extremely dedicated, whether it's chasing down criminals or working 20 hours a day.

"Many of them work 12 hour days regularly, but most of them stay

longer to get the job done well," he said. "It's a hard job, but they work hard, and I'm glad to work with them."

Tellezbedolla, who made a lateral move into his current job, said that when Huber was his instructor he broke things down so the students could really understand them, and taught them things they could use outside their primary job.

The respect is mutual between Huber and his Marines in the airframes shop, and it's clear the learning cycle has gone full circle.

Pilots, aircrew prepare for NBC risks

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng correspondent

USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) - As the Marines and Sailors of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade move closer to the Middle East the threat of a nuclear, chemical or biological attack is eminent.

To help the Marines be prepared to the fullest, the NBC section of Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd MEB's Aviation Combat Element, gave the squadrons aboard the ship training in decontaminating helicopters, Jan. 17. Kicking off the class, Lance Cpl. Christopher M.

Shumway, NBC specialist with MAG 29, went over the four Mission Oriented Protective Posture levels, and stated each squadron has about 29 Marines who are monitor, survey and decontamination certified. Those Marines specialize in decontaminating their perspective aircraft.

It is necessary that pilots and aircrew understand the procedures for the two levels of decontamination so they can assist their NBC Marines in the process, keeping everyone involved as safe as possible.

According to Shumway, the two levels of decontamination are operational and thorough. Operational decon-

tamination is done while the Marines are in theater and contamination occurs. Removal of gross contamination, or the easily accessible large quantities of chemicals, is done by landing in the NBC unit's area of the airfield, while seven-ton trucks with high-pressure hoses are used to wash down the aircraft. The Marines cleaning the aircraft would be wearing level four MOPP gear as well as full-length aprons to protect them from the chemicals.

The pilots are to keep the rotors turning so the rotor-wash would facilitate the process. They also learned they could aid in the decontamination process by hovering over uncontaminated sand, which would get kicked up by the wind, and soak up the contamination, acting as a cleaning agent.

Other cleaning agents are JP-5, JP-8 and antifreeze. Marines were informed that Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 brought along two de-icing trucks that

spray antifreeze at a high rate that will also help in the process of decontamination. Alcohol and bleach are also good decontamination agents that can clean the inside of the aircraft.

The Marines who are MSD certified are crucial to the decontamination process of the helicopters because they know what agents to use on certain parts of the aircraft and when it is safe to use some of the more flammable cleaning agents.

Thorough decontamination is done only when the Marines will be leaving the area to go back home. The aircraft will be completely washed down and tested with M-9 paper, which picks up traces of left over chemicals, until the entire aircraft tests clean.

"These classes are extremely important because the pilots and aircrew need to understand the procedures for decontamination," said Sgt. Robert T. Davis, NBC spe-

cialist with MAG 29.

"We will need their full support, and if they know the steps and how to help they can do their part," he said.

Davis said NBC is their utmost concern right now because the risk for chemical contamination is extremely high if they go into country.

"No one really knows what to expect once we get to where we're going.

"But we have to prepare for the worst and know how to do a job that I hope we never have to do. Nonetheless I have full confidence in my Marines. We retrain every NBC specialist each year, and now we are doing it on a more frequent basis, so every one's ready," said Davis.



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey M. Hewlett, commanding officer of Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269, asks Sgt. Robert T. Davis, Marine Aircraft Group 29 Nuclear, Chemical and Biological specialist, how his pilots can facilitate the decontamination process.

Bank on scouts filling food banks

Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas
correspondent

The Boy Scouts of America conducted their annual food drive aboard Station, Feb. 1-8.

In Onslow County, the "Scouting for Food" food drive by the Scouts is one of the leading contributors to the food banks.

For the food drive the Scouts leave empty bags, with instructions inside, on house doors and then pick

the bags up at the specified date.

"Last year we took food to the Soup Kitchen in downtown Jacksonville and to the Salvation Army," said Gunnery Sgt. Clay Collins, pack 216 Cub Master and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 supply maintenance liaison staff noncommissioned officer. "This year we are taking the food to the Soup Kitchen."

For about half a century, the Boy Scouts' troop 216, and Cub Scouts' pack 216, have been a presence aboard the Station.

In January, the Scouts renewed their Charter with the Boy Scouts of America with MCAS New River as the chartering organization. As the chartering organization, the Station acts as a sponsor and provides the Scouts with the facilities to hold meetings.

Both the Scouts and the Cubs meet at the Scout Hut on Station. The Cubs are young boys in first through fifth grade and the Scouts are boys ages 11-18.

"[The Scouts] do a lot of community service oriented things to teach the young boys values and the basic skills for taking care of themselves," said Collins. "We teach them everything from how to dress in cold weather to safety. We cover a lot of issues that help a young boy grow into a man."

Other projects being conducted

by the Cubs is a "pen pal" program for deployed Marines.

For more information regarding the Boy Scout and Cub Scout aboard Station, contact Gunnery Sgt. Clay Collins at 989-6397.



Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

The scout hut aboard the Station is home to Boy Scouts troop 216 and Cub Scouts pack 216.

Timely mail delivery: What you should know

Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas
correspondent

With more than 2,000 Marines from New River on their way to the Persian Gulf as the Aviation Combat Element of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, spouses and family members left behind are anxious to keep in touch with their Marines.

The most "tried and true" method of communicating with the Marines is the endearingly referred to "snail mail."

Anyone sending letters or packages through the mail should make sure the address on the items is correct.

Families are encouraged to check with their post office, squadrons and the Key Volunteer Network to ensure that the address is correct. Taking the time to ensure that it is written correctly and legibly will aid the package in being delivered without complications.

"If there is any confusion, the package will likely be returned to the individual," said Staff Sgt. James Martin, Station postal chief.

There is a listing of FPO/APO addresses for all of the squadrons that have been deployed and it will be accessible in each post office.

"Everything they send, if they can afford it, should be sent priority mail," said Martin. "Items will be sorted priority mail and letters first. It should take no more than seven to ten days to be delivered."

Express mail is not authorized and will not be delivered.

Items should be boxed as for normal shipping. Good reinforced tape is recommended to prevent the box from coming open during shipping. Another recommendation is to avoid a lot of writing on the box to help reduce confusion.

Weight and size restrictions are 70 pounds and 108 inches in length and girth. Those with questions regarding their packages can speak to someone at their post office.

People sending mail will have to declare what is in the package when they go to the post office. If there is anything in there that they cannot send, the postal clerks will inform them.

Restricted items include pornographic materials, currency, firearms and weapons of any kind. Sending breakable items should be avoided if possible.

It is also advised that the Marines don't change their address. Doing so slows the mail process when they return to Station, because the mail will unnecessarily be forwarded to the FPO/APO address before coming back to the Marine. Any mail sent to a Marine's address aboard Station will be forwarded to them while they are gone.

Families now have more than one avenue to correspond with loved ones. Providing a more instantaneous route of communication is the use of e-mail. Families should realize though, that Marines might not be able to respond as quickly as they are used to, due to limited accessibility to e-mail accounts.

Due to the undetermined length of time Marines will be on ship, individual e-mail accounts for every Marine are not being set up, but a group account for each work center is being established. All of the Marines in that center will have access to e-mail via that account, and can e-mail their family so they know where to send future e-mails.

"Family members should put the name of the Marine they are e-mailing in the subject line so that when Marines log on they can tell who the mail is



Cpl. Josh P. Vierela

Unauthorized mail can slow down delivery of packages.

for," said 1st Lt. Nadina A. Newman, Marine Aircraft Group 29 adjutant.

"This does not guarantee that someone other than the intended recipient won't view the mail, and family members need to be conscious of the content of the letters," said Newman.

Family members utilizing e-mail shouldn't ask a lot of questions regarding sensitive information, nor should they expect to find out information such as locations, what the Marines are doing and any information regarding their missions.

Adhering to guidelines and a little common sense will make sure that the Marines will receive everything in a timely manner, and will help keep those left behind in contact with those supporting the president's war on terrorism.

AWARD

from page 7

Cpl. A. H. Vickers
Lance Cpl. P. E. Turnquist
Lance Cpl. J. C. Rocha
Lance Cpl. R. R. Woolf

Meritorious Mast

Sgt. M. T. Hafner
Sgt. B. J. Sulser
Cpl. E. L. Gibson
Cpl. D. M. Olchewske
Cpl. A. L. Sawyer

Cpl. T. M. Smith
Lance Cpl. W. R. Duvall
Lance Cpl. J. M. Mills
Lance Cpl. R. B. Neal

Promotions

Gunnery Sgt. R. C. Rasmussen
Sgt. N. G. Inman (Meritorious)
Sgt. J. Odonell, III
Sgt. P. M. Salay
Sgt. T. M. Whitfield
Cpl. M. R. Robertson
Cpl. D. Zuniga

‘Fast’ fix for phrogs



Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

Corporal Dean Urbanek, Marine Aviation Logistics-26 ground support equipment 92D workcenter supervisor, took on the task of rebuilding and replacing all of the CH-46 Sea Knight fast rope frames for Marine Aircraft Group 26.

On the homefront

Community provides family assistance

Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas
correspondent

In an effort to help provide support to the families of deployed Marines and Sailors, the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce launched Project CARE.

According to Mona Padrick, local chamber president, CARE stands for Community Action Readiness Efforts and is a deployment contingency plan developed in 1999, based on the lessons learned from the 1991 deployments in support of Operation Desert Storm.

"For those of us who have lived in other communities during times of crisis, what Jacksonville is doing is incredibly unique," said Lita Bartels, wife of Col. Dennis T. Bartels, MCAS New River commanding officer.

"If you were up in Washington, D.C., or in California you might become somewhat anonymous, but the wonderful thing about Jacksonville is that it [the community] really embraces us as a military community and supports us," she said.

In order to better support the needs of the families and the businesses, the chamber sent out surveys to the business community and non-profit organizations, asking what they could do for the families of deployed warfighters.

In addition to the services and discounts many businesses already offer to military families, many found additional ways to help.

All of the establishments being contacted are those that are members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Project CARE has made the information gathered readily available to the families who need it. One avenue set up to get the information is the hotline set up by Marine Corps Community Services (1-800-451-MCCS), available anytime with all the information resources and help established by Project CARE. To access the hotline the "1-800" must be dialed, regardless if calling from the local area.

The Key Volunteer Network will also have all of the information and resources gathered by Project CARE. Spouses are encouraged to utilize their KVN first for help with situations and needs that arise.

"The Key Volunteer Network already has a well laid out system for working with the needs that families have," said Padrick. "We don't want to interfere. We don't want to duplicate services. We want to be there to fill where we are needed."

The list of services being provided by the community is an ever-changing one. As new needs arise and businesses get involved the list will be updated and the KVN and the hotline will have all of the current information.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Marine Aircraft Group 29 "War Eagles" have departed the Station and their barber shop has one less barber. Denna S. Pierce has been a barber for MAG 29 for six years, and now will be a barber for MAG 26.

Deployments affect Station business

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

As proud as the people are to see Marines going off to fight for their country, it doesn't compensate for the void some feel when they're gone.

More than 2,000 of our warfighters have left their families and the Station to defend against the threat of terror that has been lingering over the nation. This deployment brought with it uncertainty about the country's economy and survival of our way of life.

"Sales have somewhat declined since the deployments," said Ava H. Babbert, who works at the Station's Service Station. "It's been a 25 percent drop since, but now that we have the new gas pumps open 24/7, it should help compensate for the drop."

Most, if not all, of the business on Station have felt the effects of Marine Aircraft Group 29 deployments, Jan. 6-13. Since the "War Eagles" departure, some shops have seen considerable loss.

"It wasn't so bad when they first deployed," said Alisha B. Matthias, store manager at the Subway here. "Sales might have lowered \$100

after the first week, but after the second week we saw a loss of \$500. That was a significant loss."

According to Matthias, sales for Subway dropped one-third when compared to December sales. This has put a strain on the employees, who face possible cut backs on hours.

The MAG 29 Barber Shop also faces a reduction in personnel because of the lack of business that facility receives. Their figures show a 30 percent reduction in sales since the deployment, and the shop hours have already been modified to accommodate patrons who would like to get their hair cut.

"This has made an impact on the barber shop, so we try to encourage patrons to use our facility," said Heuston L. Hall, manager at the "War Eagles" Barber Shop. "Without the Marines here, we have to 'buckle down' and 'float it out.'"

Buckling down is exactly what the food service specialists are doing at the Station Dining Facility. When the deployment order came out, cooks who were temporarily assigned to Station Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron had to return to their parent command Marine Wing Support Squadron-272.

This left a shortage of manpower at the dining facility, and the remaining 10 cooks had to bear with doing the job of 30. It became a struggle for the cooks because the amount of patrons they were feeding hadn't reduced, just the amount of cooks who were preparing the meal, according to Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Raccio, galley captain.

Because of the high volume of patrons eating at the facility, more civilians were brought in to assist the Marines. The combination of civilians and Marines working together has increased productivity, said John Negron, manager of the Dining Facility.

The deployments turned out to be a positive impact on the dining facility. Other retailers, however, are still waiting to feel the effects. New River Marine Corps Exchange has had stable flow of sales since the departure of our warfighters and hasn't been affected yet, stated Kimberly M. McPherson, assistant store manager for the exchange.

"Business has continued to stay steady while the troops are gone," said Pat D. Torish, store administrator at the New River Commissary. "We haven't seen the effects. Yet."

Unfortunately, there is nothing to base this information on because last year sales were recorded while the old commissary was open, said Torish. Though the effects on sales were a concern for business on Station, they felt a bigger concern for the morale of the Marines deployed and their families.

"Personally, it's a scary thing to see a lot of the Marines going, and we're very concerned about their safety as well as their families," said Walker. "We hope they come back soon."